



Department
for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
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Our Ref: MC/424219
Your Ref: TCAG-MHRH-SLTC-230305

205 March 2023

Dear *Laura,*

Thank you for your letter of 5 March to the Secretary of State and myself, raising your concern about the proposed Lower Thames Crossing.

Between 2015 and 2020 National Highways undertook a full review of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and released new standards. In October 2019 it was confirmed that the Lower Thames Crossing would be designed in accordance with GD 300 (*Requirements for new and upgraded all-purpose trunk roads (expressways)*). GD 300 provides the design requirements and guidance for new and upgraded all-purpose trunk roads.

This design standard was the most appropriate for the objectives of the Lower Thames Crossing, and its designation was confirmed as an all-purpose trunk road (A-road).

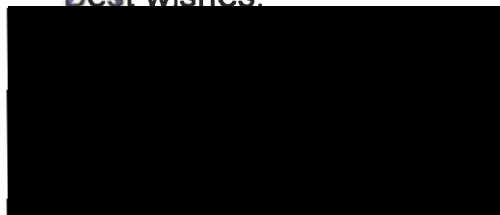
National Highways has undertaken a Costs and Benefits Appraisal – Light Touch (COBALT) accident analysis, further information can be found at section 8.6.16 of the Economic Impact Report¹.

Safety is a key priority for National Highways. Lower Thames Crossing tunnels and roads will be designed and built to the highest safety standards recommended today. National Highways continues to adapt its design of the project to incorporate any advances in design and technology that emerge in the years ahead.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-001336-7.7%20Combined%20Modelling%20and%20Appraisal%20Report%20-%20Appendix%20D%20-%20Economic%20Appraisal%20Package%20-%20Economic%20Appraisal%20Report.pdf>

As this is a live Development Consent Order application, I hope you will appreciate that it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Best wishes.



RICHARD HOLDEN MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT